(b) if not, the actual number of the said schemes;

(c) the number of schemes out of the said schemes which are meant for development of rural areas and development of urban areas respectively; and

(d) the average amount spent annually during the last five years on these schemes in urban and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented by State Government/Union Territories and monitored by the Administrative Ministries concerned. There are 207 Centrally Sponsored Schemes in operation in 2004-05 as per available information which involve central budgetary support of about Rs. 41,000 crore. Centrally Sponsored Schemes are generally classified on the basis of the objective of the scheme and not according to whether they are meant for rural or urban areas. However, the ongoing CSS include Schemes relating to Ministries of Rural Development and Urban Development that are generally focused towards development of respective sectors. In addition, CSS pertaining to some other Ministries/Departments may also have a bearing towards development of rural/urban areas. The scheme wise details are available in the Expenditure Budget Volume-2 for corresponding years.

**Study of Biological Warning System**

3816. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the five aboriginal tribes inhabiting the Andaman Nicobar Islands, the last missing link of the present day world with the earlier civilization, have emerged by and large unscathed from the recent Tsunami havoc, because of their age old biological warning signals like the cry of birds and behavior of marine animals dating back to 20,000 or more years; and

(b) if so, the steps that have since been taken and are being taken for study of such biological warning signals and their documentation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) There is no scientific database available to validate the assertion that animal behaviour provides a scientific basis and that such behaviour should be considered as a

precursor to an earthquake. It cannot be affirmatively stated that unusual behaviour of animals always results in an earthquake.

**Science Park in Bangalore**

3817. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any proposal for the release of Centre's share in the setting up of Science Park in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the proposed Science Park,

(c) the Centre's share therein; and

(d) the present status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Science Advisory Committee**

3818. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Science Advisory Committee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has set up a Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM) consisting of eminent scientists, technologists, academicians, industrialists and Heads of S&T organizations.

The terms of reference of the Council are to look at the issues which would be relevant to India at the policy level. The Council will prepare a future road map for Science & Technology, policy guidelines and guide the nation towards a direction, which will ensure our preparedness for meeting the challenges of the future. It will also consider and suggest mechanism to build scientific temper within the community and other policy issues